



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

Synopsis of SF2288 - Confidentiality of Juvenile Court Records March 7, 2016

SF2288 (formerly SF2070) is a bill that would make juvenile delinquency proceedings confidential except under certain circumstances. Under current law (Iowa Code Chapter 232 Juvenile Justice), juvenile delinquency records are public unless a judge grants a request to make the records confidential or seals the records. SF2288 amends that law by making juvenile delinquency court records confidential with some exceptions. Confidentiality of these records would remove or reduce barriers stigmatized by a youthful offense, including restrictions in education, housing, and employment.

The major exception to the confidentiality is that the juvenile court records involving forcible felonies, such as murder, kidnapping, sexual abuse, robbery and burglary, shall remain public records. The court may also make juvenile court records public if the juvenile is subsequently convicted of other crimes.

SF2288 also allows a judge to make juvenile records public if the interest in making the record public outweighs the juvenile's interest in keeping the record confidential. This allows people to be informed about crimes of public interest and criminals in their community. The bill sets forth the procedures on requests to have confidential records made public.

In addition, certain organizations would have access to the confidential records without a court order, such as law enforcement agencies, the Department of Corrections, schools, and the Statistical Analysis Center of the Iowa Department of Human Rights.

SF2288 applies to juvenile delinquency proceedings which are pending or arise on or after July 1, 2016. The bill was approved by the Iowa House (96-1) and Senate (48-0), and sent to the Governor for a public signing on March 9, 2016.

The text of SF2288 may be accessed here:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=86&ba=sf2288>